

REMARKS

Currently, claims 1-8, 67-77, 79-86, 89-97, 101-110, 112-121, and 127-132 remain pending in the above captioned application, including independent claims 1, 67, 101, 114, and 127. In the Office Action, independent claims 1, 67, 101, 114, and 127 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) or § 103(a) in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,990,377 to Chen, et al. Specifically, the Office Action cites the teachings of Chen, et al., particularly Col. 36, ll. 64 to Col. 37, ll. 16, as anticipating independent claims 1, 67, 114, and 127. In this section of Chen, et al., two embodiments are disclosed. First, Chen, et al. states that an absorbent core of an absorbent article can be “replaced by a series of resilient basesheet layers, such as the wet resilient uncreped, through-air-dried (“UCTAD”) basesheets... and a dual-zoned absorbent web containing hydrophobic material... placed in superposed relation” on the series of resilient basesheet layers. Col. 36, line 64 - Col. 37, line 6. Chen, et al. teaches that this embodiment can replace the absorbent core utilized in an absorbent structure, which has a liquid impervious backsheet that prevents leakage. Nowhere does Chen, et al. disclose or even suggest, however, that this replacement for an absorbent core can be used for cleaning a surface.

Secondly, Chen, et al. discloses that a “hand towel” can be made from the uncreped, non-compressively dried basesheets. However, in this embodiment, no multi-layer compressible substrate comprising a plurality of stacked plies is disclosed. In this embodiment of Chen, et al., the hydrophilic fibers of the basesheet are utilized to absorb fluids.

In any event, Chen, et al. fails to teach in any embodiment the use of an abrasive material attached to an outer cover, as required by independent claims 1, 67, 101, 114,

and 1:27. The present application discloses the adhesive material can provide an abrasive surface to the outer cover to improving scrubbing. Paragraph 73.

The Office Action states that Chen, et al. discloses adhesive containing regions that are noticeably stiffer than the surrounding base sheet, citing col. 45, lines 59-60. However, the disclosure of a “stiffer” adhesive does not equate to an abrasive material that facilitates scrubbing of a surface. Also, this example is directed to a single layer sheet, not a multi-layer substrate comprising a plurality of stacked plies of a textured paper web, such as in claim 1. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that Chen, et al. does not anticipate the pending independent claims of the present application.

Also in the Office Action, independent claims 1 and 67 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,993,805 to Prodoehl, et al. However, in view of the Declaration under 37 C.F.R. 1.131 attached,¹ Prodoehl, et al. is not available as a valid prior art reference under any section of §102. See, e.g., M.P.E.P. § 715. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1 and 67 are patentable over Prodoehl, et al.


Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in complete condition for allowance, and therefore request reconsideration and favorable action. Should Examiner Stephens have any further questions or concerns, she is invited and encouraged to contact the undersigned at her convenience.

¹ Applicants plan to file an executed declaration once all of the inventors have signed the declaration.

Respectfully submitted,
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